

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL PRESS REPORTAGE, RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. NO TV AND VERY LITTLE RADIO COVERAGE DIRECTLY FROM TRAVELING PARTY FRIDAY EVENING OR SATURDAY MORNING. NETWORK EVENING TV NEWS AGAIN CARRIED NO FILM AND ONLY BRIEF ANCHORMEN REFERENCES. HATE TO LOAD THE CIRCUIT WITH KALB, BUT OUR MONITORING PICKED UP ONLY HIS THREE FOLLOWING RADIO REPORTS:

A. FRIDAY EVENING:

THE SECRETARY APPEARS TO BE ZEROING ON A DEAL BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF SO, HE WILL STAY ALL OF NEXT WEEK AND COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN FRONT. IF NOT, HE WILL LEAVE THE MIDDLE EAST BY NEXT TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY TO RETURN TO FINISH THIS DIPLOMATIC JOB IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

KISSINGER IS BEGINNING TO EXPRESS CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AS THE DIPLOMATS SAY. ONE HIGH US OFFICIAL NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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PUTTING THE ODDS AT BETTER THAN FIFTY-FIFTY THAT KISSINGER

WILL NAIL DOWN A DEAL BY MONDAY OR TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. HE DENIES WITH SOME VEHEMENCE, OF COURSE, THAT HE IS FLYING FROM ONE MIDDLE EASTERN CAPITAL TO ANOTHER TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM WATERGATE; IMPEACHMENT DIPLOMACY AS IT WAS ONCE CALLED. THERE IS NO CONNECTION HE SAYS BETWEEN HIS MAN IN MOTION DIPLOMACY AND THE MOVES TO IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT.

B. FIRST LINE REPORT, SATURDAY MORNING:

TRAVELING WITH HENRY, HENRY KISSINGER THAT IS -- NO REPORTER TRAVELING WITH HENRY KISSINGER HAS TIME TO WRITE LETTERS HOME. SO WITH CBS'S PERMISSION ALLOW ME TO FULFILL A PROFESSIONAL AND A PERSONAL OBLIGATION BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.

DEAR EVERYONE: TRAVELING WITH HENRY AS I HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE IS ALWAYS A MIX OF INTELLECTUAL EXHILARATION AND PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION. HE IS TRYING TO REGISTER A BREAKTHROUGH BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF ONE ANOTHER. HE FLIES FROM ONE CAPITAL TO ANOTHER SPINNING A WEB OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN AN ARAB-ISRAELI ACCOMODATION. HE MAY YET FAIL; NO ONE HAS EVER SUCCEEDED BEFORE BUT WITH REMARKABLE ENERGY AND TENACITY HE PLUNGES ON AND ON AND ON. IN THIS TRIP ALONE, TODAY IS TWO WEEKS SINCE IT STARTED, WE'VE BEEN TO GENEVA ONCE, ALGIERS ONCE, ALEXANDRIA TWICE, DAMASCUS TWICE, NICOSIA ONCE, RIYADH ONCE, CAIRO ONCE, AND JERUSALEM NOW SIX TIMES.

KISSINGER LOOKS AS THOUGH HE IS GETTING A BIT TIRED, BUT IN FRONT OF CAMERAS HE ALWAYS MANAGES A SMILE BROADLY. WHENEVER THERE IS WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE CALLS A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY KISSINGER IS CALLED UPON TO MAKE SMALL TALK. ONCE IN ALEXANDRIA WHEN THE CAMERMEN WERE ZEROING IN ON HIS WIFE NOT HIM, HE COMPLAINED WITH A SMILE "NO ONE EVER WANTS TO TAKE PICTURES OF ME ANY MORE". ANOTHER TIME IN NICOSIA HE TURNED TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, THE COLORFUL RULER OF CYPRUS, AND IN HIS RICHLY ACCENTED ENGLISH HE SAID, "YOUR BEATITUDE HAS PREPARED SUCH A LOVELY LUNCH ON ONLY ONE HOUR'S NOTICE." HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEATITUDE, MAKARIOS, HAD PREPARED KISSINGER'S FAVORITE DISH, A WEINER SCHNITZEL.

OTHER STORIES ALSO LEAP TO MIND. THE CLOSEST TO DANGER KISSINGER CAME DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT TO CYPRUS WAS WHEN THE EMBASSY CAR'S MOTOR OVERHEATED AND EXPLODED WITH KISSINGER IN THE CAR. NO ONE GOT HURT. IN RIYADH, THE DESERT CAPITAL OF SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE TEMPERATURES

NORMALLY RUN OVER 100 DEGREES AND RAIN IS A RARE OCCURRENCE, KISSINGER FOUND HIMSELF CHIT-CHATting WITH KING FAISAL ON THE RAIN IN RIYADH, A FREAK SANDSTORM AND RAINSTORM

RATTLED PLATES IN THE KING'S PALACE. IT HAPPENS, THE KING SAID NONCHALANTLY FINGERING HIS WORRY BEADS.

IN ALEXANDRIA SADAT EMBRACED KISSINGER, AN ODD SPECTACLE, A GERMAN BORN JEWISH-AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE BEING KISSED BY ARAB RULERS, AND REFERRED TO AS DR. HENRY, OR OUR FRIEND HENRY. IN ISRAEL A DEMONSTRATOR CARRIED A PLACARD ON ONE OF KISSINGER'S ARRIVALS, IT READ, "TRAITOR, MOHAMMAD IVANOVICH KISSINGER." ANOTHER ISRAELI SHOWING SUSPICION OF THE SECRETARY'S PEACEMAKING EFFORTS SAID, "WHEN THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATION IS OVER, THE SYRIANS WILL RAISE A MONUMENT TO KISSINGER. THE INSCRIPTION WILL READ," HE SAID, "TO OUR GREATEST GENERAL," A REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT KISSINGER IS GETTING THE ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP LAND, NOT ARAB ARMIES.

IN DAMASCUS SYRIAN OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO SOUND REFRESHINGLY DIPLOMATIC. THEY USED TO BE ICY AND UTTERLY NONCOMMUNICATIVE. NOW THEY CHAT WITH VISITING REPORTERS AND THEY SPECULATE THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT PROBABLY NEXT WEEK. KISSINGER PROMISES THAT SOMETIME TODAY HE IS GOING TO GET INTO A PAIR OF BATHING TRUNKS AND GO IN FOR A SWIM. WE ALL HOPE HE DOES -- FOR A LONG SWIM.

C. SATURDAY MORNING WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP:

THE SECRETARY'S SPOKESMAN SAY HE IS RELAXING TODAY, HIS FIRST BREAK IN A GRUELING TWO-WEEK SCHEDULE THAT HAS ALREADY TAKEN HIM TO GENEVA, ALGIERS, ALEXANDRIA, UNCLASSIFIED

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NICOSIA, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, RIYADH, AND JERUSALEM. BECAUSE IT IS THE SABBATH HERE IN ISRAEL, KISSINGER IS FORCED TO EASE UP ON HIS DRIVE TOWARDS THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. HE WILL RESUME THAT DRIVE AFTER SUNDOWN, A MEETING WITH PM GOLDA MEIR, AND HER SENIOR ADVISORS IS PLANNED. TOMORROW KISSINGER RETURNS TO DAMASCUS. A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED LAST NIGHT AS SAYING "THERE IS NOW A BETTER THAN FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE THAT KISSINGER WILL GET HIS DEAL BY EARLY NEXT WEEK AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY NEXT WEEKEND". THE QUESTION OF HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE ONE HERE ALL NIGHT, SPARKED BY RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MAY RESIGN. NO ONE HAS YET SEEN THE SECRETARY THOUGH HIS AIDES ASSURE REPORTERS THAT HE SLEPT LATE TODAY, THAT THEY HAVE TALKED WITH HIM, THAT HE HAS A SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

TONIGHT BEFORE RESUMING HIS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT AND THAT HE
MAY EVEN GO IN FOR A DIP IN THE HOTEL SWIMMING POOL

IF THE SUN COMES OUT FROM BEHIND ALL THOSE SHIFTING
CLOUDS.

2. CBS RADIO (NOT KALB) SATURDAY ALSO MENTIONED MCCLOSKEY'S
DENIAL OF RUMOR THAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO
RETURN TO US.
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